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October 23, 1997

Project Number 5278

Mr. James X. Shafer
Remedial Project Manager
Northern Division, Naval Facilities Engineering Command
10 Industrial Highway, Mail Stop 82
Lester, Pennsylvania 19113

Reference: CLEAN Contract No. N62472-90-D-1298
Contract Task Order 218

Subject: RAB Meeting Summary

Dear Mr. Shafer:

Enclosed is a copy of the October 15, 1997 RAB meeting summary.

If you have any questions about this matter, please contact me at 978-658-7899.

Very truly yours,

Betsy Horne
Community Relations Specialist

BH:ib

Enclosure

c: R. Boucher, NORTHDIV (w/o enc.)
B. Wheeler/D. Sanders, NETC (w/enc.)
D. McKenna/G. Bullard, B&RE - Wilmington (w/enc.)
G. Glenn, B&RE - Philadelphia (w/enc.)
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File 5278 - 3.2 (w/o enc.) / 5278 - 9.4 (w/enc.)

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NETC RAB DISCUSSES FACTORS FOR DETERMINING SITE CLEANUP PRIORITIES

On Wednesday, September 17, 1997, the NETC Newport Installation Restoration Program Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) met at the NETC Officers' Club.

NETC and its regulatory partners are in the process of negotiating a Federal Facilities Agreement (FFA), which is a document that specifies the responsibilities of each party and includes schedules for each site to ensure timely remediation. Draft FFA schedules were circulated, prompting the RAB to express its desire for a role in recommending remediation funding priorities to the Navy.

Many factors will effect the funding priority list. The first is the relative risk rankings for NETC sites the Navy developed a few years ago, which are being reassessed in light of new data and cleanup progress. Other relative risk ranking factors are the level of data that exist for each site; a site may be ranked low because no data exists to rate it high, not because there is no contamination present. The new rankings will be available for the next RAB meeting.

Other factors the RAB discussed include:

- the estimated cost range to remediate each site
- how far along a site has come in the remediation process
- its suitability for transfer from military to civilian use
- the desire for ownership of a site by municipal or developmental interests
- the potential for use by the Navy

This last point is important. The Navy expects to issue a Comprehensive Use Plan in July 1998; the plan will specify how it intends to use its NETC property. Property not deemed essential to NETC's mission may be excessed. NETC staff took this opportunity to remind the RAB that its role in establishing cleanup priorities is advisory, particularly in light of the release of the plan next summer.

These issues had already been discussed by the Aquidneck Island Citizens Advisory Board, which is the recipient of EPA's Technical Assistance Grant for the facility. They approached these issues by focusing on potential future uses of NETC IR sites could be switched. The uses included scenic vistas and parks; boat ramps; housing; waste recycling; fisheries; aquaculture; and ship docking and servicing. That group then considered questions for each use, such as who would benefit; who would fund and maintain the site; what effect the site's acquisition would have on municipal finances; and which sites were best suited for these uses.

Discussion shifted back and forth on what should determine funding priorities: human and environmental risk versus the availability of a site for civilian use. RAB members were asked to complete two matrices for the next meeting. One rates 12 sites on their cleanup priority; the second rates seven sites the Navy may excess that would be most desirable to be transferred from the Navy for civilian use.